

another after the second and three after the third, these all produced the brown form of larva described below. The sixth remained green throughout. All wild larvae that I have seen have been of the green form.

Final instar.—Brown form.—Head and ground colour tobacco-brown. The subdorsal thoracic line yellow. The ring of the ocellus on the 4th somite very dark brown edged internally with white and externally with yellow. The spots on the 5th to 10th somites very conspicuous the centres bright yellow-green. Other markings the same as the green form.

Hampson describes the horn as yellow and does not mention the brown form. He also appears to have been ignorant of the shape of the pupa as one of the characteristics given for the *Chaerocampinae* is "Pupa without external sheath for proboscis." Seitz's description is "Young larva green, later on often dark brown, in front very pointed; on the 4th ring a very large expressive fictitious eye, surrounded by yellow and above shaded with dark; on the other rings lateral light ovals and below them dark oblique patches. Horn very small."

Hamps. *Moths. Brit. Ind.* I. 100: Moore, *Lep. Ceylon*, II. pl. 88. 1, 1a: Seitz. *Indo-malay Bomby.*, X. 568.

LIMACODIDAE.

Natada suffusa, Moore = [*Macroleptra nararia*, Mr., f. *cosmiana*, Swb. (= *suffusa*, Mr.)].

Head brown and retractile. Ground colour green. A purple-brown dorsal stripe, broad anteriorly and narrowing to a line on the 7th somite, from which it again broadens posteriorly. A yellow spot on each side of the dorsal stripe on the 7th. somite. A series of 11 lateral projections with urticating bristles, the 1st and 2nd short red and directed forward, the 3rd long, red and directed sideways, the 4th to 10th short, green and directed sideways and the 11th long, green and directed backwards. A double dorsal row of tufts of very short urticating bristles. In some examples the dorsal stripe is almost obsolete.

Cocoon.—Spherical, purplish brown.

Foodplant.—*Lagerstroemia indica* (Crape Myrtle).

Described from a full fed larvae found in Calcutta, 25.xii.31, pupated 28.xii.31 and a male emerged 19.i.32.

Hampson describes the larva of *N. nararia*, Moore, which he makes conspecific with *suffusa*, as "yellowish-green above, pink below; a yellow or pinkish dorsal band; a subdorsal series of red tipped spinous tubercles; a sublateral series of larger whitish tubercles with very short spines, the tubercles at each end being long, those at the posterior end longest."

Hamps. *Moths Brit. India*, I. 381-2; Moore *Lep. E. I. Co.* pl. 21. figs. 8, 8a: Hering-Stz. *Ind. Mal. Bomb.* X. 716.

The Genetics and Status of *Xylomania (Xylomiges) conspicillaris*, L. and *ab. intermedia*, Tutt, and *ab. melaleuca*, View.

By E. A. COCKAYNE, D.M., F.R.C.P.

I was much interested to hear that in 1933 Mr. G. B. Coney bred a large number of *X. conspicillaris* from a wild female taken in Somerset and that he obtained types and intermediates as well as *ab. melaleuca*, View. The proportion of types and intermediates in the Taunton district is very small, so much so, that doubts have been cast

on their occurrence there. In Gloucestershire, though the species is rarer, there is a much higher percentage of these two forms.

In answer to my enquiry about his brood Mr. Coney kindly told me that the wild female was ab. *melaleuca* and that he had bred 107 *melaleuca*, 22 ab. *intermedia*, Tutt, and 17 types. I had been under the impression that *intermedia* was the heterozygote and that *melaleuca* and type were the two homozygotes. His information showed that this could not be so, but the numbers he gave did not agree with any simple Mendelian ratio. I noticed however that the ratio of *melaleuca* to types and *intermedia* together was nearly three to one, and after puzzling over it for some time I thought that possibly there was sexual dimorphism and examined the sex of such as were available. The 7 types were all males and the 12 *intermedia* were all females. Mr. Coney was good enough to examine those still in his possession and found that his 6 types were males and his 6 *intermedia* were females, and that both sexes were represented in his *melaleuca*. To confirm the view that types are males and *intermedia* females I examined the continental series in the British Museum and found that the 14 types were males, as I expected, and the 8 *intermedia* were females. Mr. H. B. Williams examined his specimens and found that his 2 types and 4 *intermedia* alleged to come from Taunton were males and females respectively, and that his type from Worcester bred by Hancock in May, 1908, was a male. Taking them all together the 30 types were all males and the 30 ab. *intermedia* were all females, and there can be no doubt that the species is sexually dimorphic and that ab. *intermedia*, Tutt, is merely the female of the plainer grey type. Even in ab. *melaleuca* there is some sexual difference, the females being more distinctly black and white than the males.

Reverting to the brood bred by Mr. Coney, there were 107 *melaleuca* to 39 type and *intermedia*, which is in close agreement with the ordinary 3 : 1 ratio, though there were three too many type and *intermedia*. There can be little doubt that the wild female parent was heterozygous for the pale sexually dimorphic form and must have paired with a male of the same constitution, and in view of the rarity of this form in Somerset it is probable that the male was a brother of the female parent. The grey type form then is the male and the variegated ab. *intermedia*, Tutt, is the female of the pale form, which is recessive to the common black and white ab. *melaleuca*, View. I have found a good many records of broods of *melaleuca* bred from wild females of the same form, but I have been unable to find any record of a brood like that of Mr. Coney, or of one with *intermedia* as the female parent.

Seitz gives figures of all three, and says that *melaleuca* is the commonest and that ab. *intermedia* is commoner than the type. It is unlikely that there is any difference in the numbers of the two sexes, but more females than males may be found owing to the difference in their appearance or to some difference in their habits.

Description of the Larva of *Mallocephala deserticola*, Berg. (Arctiidae).

By KENNETH J. HAYWARD, F.R.E.S., F.R.G.S., F.Z.S.

Length 35-38mm.

A greyish larva with a white dorsal and a greyish lateral stripe, ringed on each segment with tufts of short brown hairs and longer darker hairs, the head brown.